

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

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FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM MOSCOW DATED APRIL 11, 1978 SENT
SECSTATE WASHDC IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

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DEPT PASS EPA FOR SHOSTAL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, PINT, PGOV, EGEN, TGEN, UR

SUBJECT: NEW STATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

REF: MOSCOW 6672

1. IN APRIL 7 CONVERSATION WITH SCICOUNS, YURIY IZRAEL'
CHAIRMAN OF HYDROMET WAS VERY CAUTIOUS IN COMMENTING ON
SIGNIFICANCE OF THE FORMATION OF NEW STATE COMMITTEE FOR
HYDROLOGY AND CONTROL OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT.
(REF) IZRAEL' CONFIRMED THAT THE STATE COMMITTEE WILL
PLAY A CENTRAL COORDINATING ROLE IN SOVIET ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION EFFORTS. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT ALL SOVIET
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MINISTRIES OR INSTITUTIONS CURRENTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR
IMPLEMENTING PORTIONS OF SOVIET ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
PROGRAMS WILL RETAIN THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE FUTURE.
IZRAEL' WAS UNWILLING TO COMMENT ON WHETHER THE NEW STATE
COMMITTEE WILL RECEIVE ANY ADDITIONAL ENFORCEMENT POWERS;
NOTING THAT ENFORCEMENT IS A COMPLICATED LEGAL AND AD-
MINISTRATIVE QUESTION WHICH IS STILL BEING DIS-

CUSSED. IZRAEL' DID NOT COMMENT ON WHO WOULD BE NAMED
CHAIRMAN OF THE NEW STATE COMMITTEE.

2. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH IZRAEL' WOULD NOT COMMENT ON HIS
CHANCES OF ASSUMING CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE NEW STATE COMMIT-
TEE, HIS Demeanor DURING THE CONVERSATION, HIS REFERENCES
TO FUTURE ACTIVITIES, AND PREVIOUS REPORTS (REF) LEAD US
TO BELIEVE THAT IZRAEL' HAS AN EXCELLENT CHANCE TO BE
NAMED TO THE POSITION. IZRAEL' IS AN ABLE SCIENTIST-
ADMINISTRATOR, HOWEVER, HE LACKS THE POLITICAL BASE TO
SERIOUSLY CHALLENGE THE INDUSTRIAL MINISTRIES ON ENVIR-
ONMENTAL PROTECTION QUESTIONS. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT
HAS SUCH GREAT PRIORITY TO THE LEADERSHIP THAT IT IS
UNLIKELY THAT THE NEW STATE COMMITTEE WILL BE SUPPLIED
WITH THE TEETH TO DO A REAL ENFORCEMENT JOB. A MORE
POWERFUL CHOICE WOULD BE IZRAEL'S PREDECESSOR YE. K.
FEDEROV, CANDIDATE MEMBER OF THE CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE.
TOON UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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